

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you of important changes to Free School Meals (FSM) that will come into effect from the start of the **2026–2027 academic year**.

From September 2026, **all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit will be entitled to a free school meal** when attending Over Kellet Wilson's Endowed CE Primary School.

There will now be **two categories of benefits-based Free School Meals**:

- **Targeted FSM** – This continues under the existing criteria for families receiving Universal Credit with an annual household income of **£7,400 or less**.
- **Expanded FSM (new)** – This applies to children in households receiving Universal Credit who **do not meet the £7,400 threshold**, but are still eligible under the expanded criteria.

This is a very positive change that will allow more children to benefit from a healthy, nutritious meal each school day.

Why applying is important

Even though eligibility is expanding, **it is essential that parents still apply**. Registering your child for Free School Meals helps the school to:

- Ensure your child receives their entitlement
- Secure additional funding (Pupil Premium) to support learning and resources for all pupils

Please apply as soon as possible

If you think you may be eligible, we strongly encourage you to **apply immediately**. The process is quick and confidential, and your application could make a real difference.

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/>

If you need support with your application or have any questions, please contact the school office—we are here to help.

Thank you for your support in ensuring all children receive the benefits they are entitled to.

Please note Lancashire County Council web information has not been updated to the new scheme stated above and they are unable to update until 1st September 2026 when the offer becomes live. They are however advising parents to put their application in from 1st July onwards so that they can prepare for the new academic year and the new scheme.

Kind regards

Sam Howard

School Office Manager

Over Kellet Wilson's Endowed CE Primary School